

Dropout Prevention Update
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National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

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Nomination forms for the Crystal Star Awards are now available on our web site.

Top Stories

U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$34.6 million contract to develop and operate ERIC. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/03/03182004.html>

For too many graduates, the American high school diploma signifies only a broken promise. *Ready or Not: Creating a High School Diploma That Counts* suggests ways to restore its value. <http://www.achieve.org/achieve.nsf/AmericanDiplomaProject?OpenForm>

Funding Sources

Target has grants available in the area of arts, early childhood reading and family violence prevention. Grants range from \$1,000-3,000. Deadline: May 31, 2004. http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/index.jhtml

State Farm Insurance Companies, in collaboration with the National Service-Learning Partnership, seek proposals from K-12 school districts for a three-year initiative to increase and sustain service-learning practice by creating partnerships among schools, businesses and communities. Deadline: April 16, 2004. http://service-learningpartnership.org/service_learning/SF_GoodNeighborInitiative.cfm

NASSP is inviting proposals from public middle level and high schools serving large numbers of low-income students and underrepresented minorities to apply for a \$3,000 mini-grant to implement a school-developed initiative aimed at strengthening ties between the grant recipients' schools and their students' neighborhoods and communities. Deadline: April 16, 2004. http://www.principals.org/awards/bridgebuilders_grant.cfm

Policy Updates

Secretary Paige issues new policy for calculating participation rates under No Child Left Behind. <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2004/03/03292004.html>

Mostly rural school systems in at least 12 states are experimenting with a shorter week. <http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/2004/0323/p03s01-ussc.html>

International Notes

Education secretary launches plans to create an electronic file on every child in England. <http://society.guardian.co.uk/children/story/0,1074,1161932,00.html>

Sex discrimination laws will be amended to allow Australian schools to offer male-only teaching scholarships to redress "gender imbalance." http://theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,8923387%255E601,00.html

Students With Disabilities

The PACER Center has just released a new curriculum on bullying which targets intervention strategies for parents of children with disabilities. <http://www.pacer.org/publications/BullyingFlyer.pdf>

The Council of the Great City Schools has prepared the fourth edition of "Beating the Odds" to give the nation another look at how inner-city schools are performing on the academic goals and standards set by the states. http://www.cgcs.org/reports/beat_the_oddsIV.html

Research-proven instructional practices, materials, and supports and accommodations can help students with disabilities effectively engage in learning general education curriculum content. http://208.246.68.104/training_resources/documents/Research-ProvenStrategiesfinal1.doc

Effective Strategies

The 15 Effective Strategies have been revised and updated. Please visit our web site (www.dropoutprevention.org) to view the changes.

Career and Technical Education

Vocational ed evolves to meet 21st Century career demands.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/technology/chi-0403060308mar07,1,1467999.story>

High school students who attend career academies earn higher incomes on average than their peers in other high schools, a new national study reports.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/366/overview.html>

Educational Technology

Studies validate laptop programs in U.S. and Canada.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4910>

Schools haven't mastered state-of-art technology; some equipment becomes outdated before teachers can learn to use it. <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/local/8247085.htm>

A new self-assessment tool from the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) aims to help educators determine their progress toward creating a data-rich school district.

<http://3d2know.cosn.org/assessment/survey.cfm>

Family Engagement

To download a copy of *The Case for Parent Leadership* and view many other parent resources, please visit <http://www.ksaplus.com/ksa/framesplpubs.html>

Parents often miss warning signs that their teenagers are at risk to drop out of high school, educators warn. <http://desmoinesregister.com/news/stories/c4780927/23672253.html>

This useful article that may help parents alleviate students' test anxiety.

http://cresst.org/resources/justforparents/HelpYourChildonTests_010804.doc

Resources & Tools

Focus on the Wonder Years - Challenges Facing the American Middle School questions the value of middle schools. <http://www.rand.org/publications/MG/MG139/>

A new study by Brigham Young University suggests that summer school has lasting effects for younger elementary students. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,595050657,00.html>

This is an excellent article on the impact of immigration on schools and students.

http://www.principals.org/publications/pl/pl_world_immigrant_students_0304.cfm

We appreciate comments from our readers. Please contact us at ndpc@clemsun.edu Sources: Access Center, ECS, EDNews, Commentaries, & Reports, ENC, eSn, Middle Web, PEN Weekly, RFP Bulletin, SMHP

